

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): ~~Recombinant~~ A recombinant microorganism for the preparation of D-amino acids starting from N-carbamoylamino acids or 5-monosubstituted hydantoins in which the gene which codes for a D-amino acid oxidase and/or the gene which codes for a D-serine dehydratase is inactivated by mutagenesis.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): ~~Microorganism~~ The recombinant microorganism according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that it~~ wherein the recombinant microorganism is an organism of the genus *Escherichia coli*.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): ~~Microorganism~~ The recombinant microorganism according to claim 1 ~~and/or 2, characterized in that this~~ wherein the recombinant microorganism has a D-carbamoylase gene from *Agrobacterium sp.*, *Arthrobacter sp.* or *Bacillus sp.*

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The recombinant microorganism according to claim 2 wherein the recombinant microorganism is *Escherichia coli* DSM 15181 and mutants derived therefrom.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The recombinant microorganism according to claim 2 wherein the recombinant microorganism is *Escherichia coli* DSM 15182 and mutants derived therefrom.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): ~~Process~~ A process for the preparation of D-amino acids ~~with a comprising utilizing the recombinant~~ microorganism according to ~~claim 1-5~~ claim 1.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): ~~Process~~ The process according to claim 6, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein D-aminobutyric acid, D-serine, D-methionine, D-tryptophan and D-phenylalanine are prepared.

Claim 8 (New): A process for the preparation of D-amino acids comprising utilizing the recombinant microorganism according to claim 2.

Claim 9 (New): The process according to claim 8 wherein D-aminobutyric acid, D-serine, D-methionine, D-tryptophan and D-phenylalanine are prepared.